

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /057 W
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P 251730Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8561
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
DA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, PO, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: TANKS FOR PORTUGAL

REF: SECDEF 3105 DTG 242342Z MAY 77

1. LT. COL. VON GRAEVENITZ, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AID PROGRAM IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, TOLD EMBOFF THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD AGREED WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN THAT THE FRG WOULD PROVIDE THE U.S. WITH EIGHTEEN REPEAT EIGHTEEN M48A2 TANKS AND PAY FOR THEIR UPGRADING TO M48A5 LEVEL AS PART OF ITS PORTUGUESE MILITARY AID PACKAGE. IN RETURN THE U.S. AGREED TO PROVIDE EIGHTEEN M48A5 TANKS FROM THE TOP OF ITS ANNISTON LINE SO THAT PORTUGAL COULD GET THE TANKS ON A TIMELY BASIS.

2. EMBASSY BONN COMPLETELY AGREES THAT THE ACTION
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SUGGESTED IN PARA ONE OF REFTEL CORRESPONDS WITH FRG DESIRES. IN ANSWER TO EMBOFF'S QUERY, VON GRAEVENITZ SAID THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD NOT AS YET NOTIFIED ITS PLANS TO THE THREE BUNDESTAG COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH DEFENSE ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL BECAUSE THE U.S. HAD ONLY PROVIDED FIRM COST FIGURES FOR THE UPGRADING ON MAY 20. HE EXPECTED THESE THREE COMMITTEES (DEFENSE, FOREIGN

AFFAIRS AND BUDGET) TO BE NOTIFIED VERY SOON AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD GIVE THEIR APPROVAL BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS JUNE 27. VON GRAEVENITZ ADDED THAT THE DM 25 MILLION ORIGINALLY EARMARKED FOR THE PROGRAM PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH AND THAT ANOTHER SEVEN TO TEN MILLION DM'S WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDED TO IT. HE DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD POSE A MAJOR PROBLEM.

3. THE ORIGINAL TEXTS OF FRG REQUESTS FOR LOA'S FOR RETROFIT OF THE EIGHTEEN TANKS AND AGREEMENT TO PAY FOR SUCH RETROFIT WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE US A FIRM DATE (HAVING ONLY RECEIVED THE REQUIRED DATA LAST FRIDAY) BUT WE KNOW THAT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICES ARE FOCUSING ON THE REQUIREMENT.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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